



House Substitute for Senate Bill 271

Thank you Chairman Foster, your staff, and committee members for your work on this important package of bills!

I am Nancy Finegood, Executive Director of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, the statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for historic resources and community revitalization. I am here to testify in favor of this package of bills, specifically House Substitute for Senate Bill 271

A few important highlights of the House Substitute for Senate Bill 271 that is critical to community revitalization:

- Restores oversight of the Community Revitalization Program.
- Strengthens the legislative intent that we reinvest in our communities and incentivize the redevelopment of properties that would otherwise not be financially viable.
- Improves the definition of a historic resource to mirror the National Park Service's Secretary of the Interior's recognized definition.
- Allows the state historic preservation office the ability to assist the MEDC to ensure projects will follow the National Park Service's Secretary of Interior Standards and guidelines to increase the likelihood of being eligible for federal historic tax credits.
- Permits smaller projects to be considered. Often smaller communities may not be considered for a CRP project because it is considered "too small" even though it is significant to the community in their redevelopment efforts.

Mackinac Island is an excellent example of the relationship between historic resources and economic development. Mackinac Island is the only community in the United States that has been named a National Historic Landmark in its entirety. Mackinac Island hosts approximately 900,000 visitors per year. Tens of millions of dollars are spent by non-Michigan residents who travel to Mackinac Island and help create jobs in our state.

Michigan Historic Preservation Network

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Michigan Historic Preservation Network recently purchased and rehabbed a 1915 building in Old Town Lansing that had been vacant for over 15 years as our new headquarters. This building was a landmark building to the commercial district. We successfully applied for and received notification that we received a CRP grant, helping to fill our financial gap. It is small projects like this one in main street communities that need the assistance of the CRP incentive to place buildings back on the tax rolls, while supplying new jobs to the local area.

Thank you again Mr. Chairman for your consideration and efforts on this issue and I am happy to answer any questions.

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